

26 February 2024

CCC Merger Inquiry Notice No. 8 of 2024

Notice of Inquiry into the Proposed Merger involving Avia Solutions Group (ASG) PLC and AirExplore, s.r.o.

It is hereby notified in terms of Article 26(6) of the COMESA Competition Regulations (the “**Regulations**”) that the COMESA Competition Commission (the “**Commission**”), after receiving a notification in terms of Article 24 of the Regulations regarding the proposed acquisition of AirExplore, s.r.o. (“**AirExplore**”) by Avia Solutions Group (ASG) PLC (“**Avia**”), intends to embark on an inquiry in terms of Article 26 of the Regulations.

The parties have submitted that Avia is involved in the provision of aviation supporting services; aviation logistics and distribution services; and aircraft trading and portfolio management. In the Common Market, Avia provides a number of services including air charter brokerage services; aircraft and business jet maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO); pilot and crew training; and wet/ACMI (aircraft, crew, maintenance and insurance) leasing services. In the Common Market, Avia is active in the Democratic Republic of Congo (“**DRC**”), Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tunisia, and Zambia.

The parties have submitted that AirExplore is active in the provision of wet/ACMI leasing services for passenger air transport with a fleet of Boeing 737-800 aircraft. In the Common Market, AirExplore has been active in Sudan until March 2023. It is presently planning to expand its services in DRC.

The transaction concerns the proposed acquisition of 100% of the shares of AirExplore by Avia.

The Commission will, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations, determine, among other things, whether the proposed transaction is likely to substantially prevent or lessen competition within the Common Market and whether the proposed transaction is or would be contrary to the public interest as provided for under Article 26 of the Regulations.

In view of this, the Commission hereby gives notice to all interested stakeholders, including competitors, suppliers and customers of the parties to the proposed transaction to submit written representations to the Commission with regard to the subject matter of the proposed inquiry by emailing them to:

sbundhun@comesacompetition.org. All written representations should be sent to the Commission not later than **18 March 2024**.

If you wish to seek further details and/or clarifications on any aspect of this proposed transaction or need assistance you may get in touch with **Ms. Sunjida Bundhun, Senior Analyst, Competition Division** on Tel: +265 111 772 466 or sbundhun@comesacompetition.org

All written representations submitted to the Commission will be treated with the strictest confidentiality and will only be used for the purpose of this inquiry.